

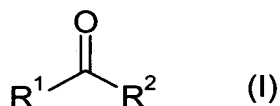
Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-11 and 22-31 without prejudice. Please add new claims 32-41 as shown below in the List of Claims.

List of Claims

- 1-11. Cancelled.
12. (Previously presented) A method for preparing an enantiomer-enriched α -hydroxycarboxylic acid or an enantiomer-enriched α -hydroxycarboxylic amide, comprising reacting a cyanide donor with an aldehyde or ketone in the presence of an oxynitrilase and either a nitrilase or a nitrile hydratase.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein, said cyanide donor is hydrogen cyanide.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said cyanide donor is reacted with said aldehyde or ketone in the presence of an oxynitrilase and a nitrilase.
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said cyanide donor is reacted with said aldehyde or ketone in the presence of an oxynitrilase and nitrile hydratase.
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein, in addition to said oxynitrilase and nitrile hydratase, an amidase is present.
17. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ method of claim 12, wherein said oxynitrilase is selected from the group consisting of *Sorghum bicolor*, *Hevea brasiliensis*, *Mannihot esculenta* and almond kernels.
18. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ method of claim 14, wherein said nitrilase is from an organism selected from either a strain of *Rhodococcus* or *Alcaligenes faecalis*.

19. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ method of claim 15, wherein said nitrile hydratase is from an organism selected from the group consisting of: *Rhodococcus spec.*, *Rhodococcus rhodochrous* and *Rhodococcus erythropolis*.
20. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ method of claim 12, wherein said cyanide donor is reacted with said aldehyde or ketone at a temperature of 20-40 °C.
21. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ method of claim 12, wherein:
- a) said oxynitrilase is selected from the group consisting of *Sorghum bicolor*, *Hevea brasiliensis*, *Mannihot esculenta* and almond kernels;
 - b) said nitrilase is from an organism selected from either a strain of *Rhodococcus* or *Alcaligenes faecalis*; and
 - c) said nitrile hydratase is from an organism selected from the group consisting of: *Rhodococcus spec.*, *Rhodococcus rhodochrous* and *Rhodococcus erythropolis*.
- 22-31. (Cancelled)
32. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein said aldehyde or ketone is a compound of Formula I:



wherein:

R¹ is (C₁-C₈)-alkyl, (C₂-C₈)-alkenyl, (C₂-C₈)-alkinyl, (C₁-C₈)-alkoxyalkyl (C₃-C₈)-cycloalkyl, (C₆-C₁₈)-aryl, (C₇-C₁₉)-aralkyl, (C₃-C₁₈)-heteroaryl, (C₄-C₁₉)-hetero-aralkyl, ((C₁-C₈)-alkyl)₁₋₃-(C₃-C₈)-cycloalkyl, ((C₁-C₈)-alkyl)₁₋₃-(C₆-C₁₈)-aryl, ((C₁-C₈)-alkyl)₁₋₃-(C₃-C₁₈)-heteroaryl and

R² is H, or R¹.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein R² is H.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein R¹ is a (C₁-C₈)-alkyl.
35. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein R¹ is a (C₆-C₁₈)-aryl.
36. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein R¹ is a (C₇-C₁₉)-aralkyl.
37. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein R¹ is a (C₃-C₁₈)-heteroaryl.
38. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein, said cyanide donor is hydrogen cyanide.
39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein:
 - a) said oxynitrilase is selected from the group consisting of *Sorghum bicolor*, *Hevea brasiliensis*, *Mannihot esculenta* and almond kernels;
 - b) said nitrilase is from an organism selected from either a strain of *Rhodococcus* or *Alcaligenes faecalis*; and
 - c) said nitrile hydratase is from an organism selected from the group consisting of: *Rhodococcus spec.*, *Rhodococcus rhodochrous* and *Rhodococcus erythropolis*.
40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said cyanide donor is reacted with said aldehyde or ketone in the presence of an oxynitrilase and a nitrilase.
41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said cyanide donor is reacted with said aldehyde or ketone in the presence of an oxynitrilase and nitrile hydratase.